

**Lepton C. E. (VC) Junior, Infant
& Nursery School**

Tel: 01484 600384

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Mr Tom Burns
Headteacher

Address: Station Road, Lepton, Huddersfield, HD8 0DE

13/6/18

Dear Parents, guardians and carers,

You are invited to a consultation on the proposal for Lepton C of E J I & N School to become a member of the Enhance Multi Academy Trust.

For the past two years the Governing body has been researching the pros and cons of joining a Multi Academy Trust or **MAT**. In November 2017, at the Governing Body meeting, a resolution was passed to proceed in consultation to join the Enhance MAT. This decision has been made with the aim of protecting and developing the school's standing for the future.

The term Academy has been around for a long time, but the reasons for conversion and the models of academy have changed greatly. School is in the strong position of being able to look at the various models of MATs available without external pressure. The aim of the Governing body has been to protect the school's identity, ethos and community, while ensuring appropriate support to develop further.

After much research, Enhance was found to be an excellent match to meet our aims.

The details of what is proposed and the impact on School, pupils and parents are outlined below. There is also a form on which you are invited to make comments and an invitation to a meeting for parents at School on Wednesday 27th June 6.00pm

Members of the Governing Body and Enhance will be present to explain this proposal in more detail, to respond to your questions and to listen to your views.

Why now?

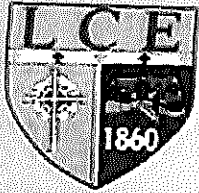
Whilst schools becoming academies has been a regular item in the press over the years, the current conversion situation is as follows:

Schools in an Ofsted category of Inadequate or Requires Improvement for 2 years must join a MAT. Where a Local authority is deemed inadequate, school must join MAT. Where services from a local Authority cannot meet the needs of schools, school must join a MAT.

Lepton, as a school rated as Good, is in the position of being able to make a choice at this time rather than having a choice forced on us. As you may be aware the resources, services and capacity of the LEA are continually reducing under budget constraints and Kirklees Children's services are currently rated Inadequate.

The Governing body believes that joining a MAT now would:

- Protect the schools identity, ethos and autonomy in the changing educational climate
- Allow the school to be an equal partner in an Academy Trust
- To ensure capacity to improve standards
- To protect the school against diminishing support / services / finances from the LEA
- For the school to be able to make a choice now rather than having limited options later



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The benefits

- Lepton C of E keeps its individual identity and church ethos
- Day to day running, methods of teaching and assessment remain the school's decision
- Complete control of the full school budget
- Flexibility in how the budget is used and access to application for grants & funding not open to LEA schools
- Greater control over the curriculum
- Access to more frequent and individualised School Improvement Partners
- Enhance has a consistent, proven track record of school improvement since 2012
- As a MAT supported by the Diocese, it is a **Not for Profit** Organisation
- With 8 Schools in the MAT there is access to support, development and collaboration at all levels for Staff, pupils and parents
- Enhance is a Primary only MAT

Will being an academy alter who can attend?

The Governing Body are clear that the school will continue to serve the community in much the same way as it does now, and that its admissions policy will not alter.

Will the name and uniform be changed?

The name of the academy is likely to become Lepton C of E Primary Academy. There are no plans to change the colour or style of the uniform, or the school badge

When would the school become an Academy?

The proposed timetable would see a conversion sometime in 2019, subject to various factors.

How do I make my views known?

The Governing Body would like to hear your views at the proposed meeting or alternatively on the attached form.

When will the consultation end?

All comments or written submissions should be made by 29 June 2018. Written responses can be made on the attached form.

Thank you for taking time to consider this proposal and to share your views

Yours faithfully
Tom Burns
HeadTeacher

